

Agricultural Commodity Commissions

RCW 15.24, 15.26, 15.28, 15.44, 15.65, 15.66, 15.74, 15.88, 16.67

The commodity commissions provide for the orderly, fair, efficient, and unhampered marketing of agricultural and forest commodities produced in Washington State. The commissions represent producers or handlers of a specific commodity produced in Washington State.

Agricultural commodity commissions operate under a separate statute or under the provisions of a marketing order, which is adopted by the Director of Agriculture. The marketing order provides for the goals and objectives of the commodity commission. The producers or handlers of an agricultural commodity must approve the marketing order by referendum. Each agricultural commodity commission is composed of industry representatives who are elected or appointed to the commission. Depending on the statute or marketing order, an agricultural commodity commission may develop and engage in research that benefits the planting, production, harvesting, handling, processing, or marketing of the specified agricultural commodity; promote an agricultural commodity or expand markets through advertising and promotional campaigns; provide for labeling practices, consumer education programs, and dissemination of information to the industry; or take measures to prevent unfair trade practices.

One commodity commission, the Hardwoods Commission, operates independently of the state Department of Agriculture. The Commission markets and promotes hardwood products, and engages in educational and research endeavors.

Each commodity commission's activities are funded almost entirely through assessments paid by the producers or handlers on the commodity produced. The commissions are supported by local funds that are not budgeted or appropriated. Each commission reports its fiscal activity to the Governor and Legislature and is subject to state audit.

Agency Local Funds

Statement of Local Fund Balances

	6/30/05	6/30/07	2007-09	2007-09	6/30/09
	Fund Balance	Estimated Fund Balance	Estimated Revenues	Estimated Expenditures	Estimated Fund Balance
Non-Budgeted Funds					
Alfalfa Seed Commission	157,667	125,000	45,000	65,000	105,000
Apple Commission	1,317,083	1,400,000	13,500,000	13,400,000	1,500,000
Asparagus Commission	570,354	407,626	500,000	600,000	307,626
Barley Commission	489,609	358,028	625,000	700,000	283,028
Beef Commission	44,725	220,236	1,205,000	1,205,000	220,236
Blueberry Commission	105,872	89,872	155,545	167,944	77,473
Bulb Commission*					
Cranberry Commission*					
Canola/Rapeseed Commission	20,618	12,000	10,000	10,000	12,000
Dairy Products Commission	1,542,253	1,540,558	12,450,956	12,749,988	1,241,526
Dry Pea and Lentil Commission	239,477	187,215	514,332	494,332	207,215
Fruit Commission	1,702,449	1,980,000	10,000,000	9,800,000	2,180,000
Hardwoods Commission	19,751	12,582	123,200	120,594	15,188
Fryer Commission	400,000	400,000	900,000	900,000	400,000
Hop Commission*	269,090	270,658	872,125	997,318	145,465
Mint Commission	365,807	385,000	205,000	220,000	370,000
Potato Commission	3,070,841	2,950,000	6,300,000	6,300,000	2,950,000
Puget Sound Gillnet Salmon	22,720	47,000	25,000	30,000	42,000
Red Raspberry Commission	279,772	756,000	985,000	970,000	771,000
Seed Potato Commission	16,848	14,848	50,000	51,000	13,848
Strawberry Commission*					
Tree Fruit Research Commission	6,462,700	3,300,000	6,800,000	6,900,000	3,200,000
Turfgrass Seed Commission	201,683	175,000	125,000	125,000	175,000
Wheat Commission	2,714,801	3,000,000	6,600,000	6,750,000	2,850,000
Wine Commission	214,916	299,916	8,373,975	8,088,975	584,916
Total Non-Budgeted Funds	20,229,036	17,931,539	70,365,133	70,645,151	17,651,521

* Commission did not provide information.